

AIDS Lecture January 16, 1989
18/10

Talking Pointes With Slides
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Presented to the Association Marseille-Europe 1992
Marseille, France
January 16, 1989

It had been 8 days since I had addressed a public audience of the subject of the AIDS epidemic.

My closest European colleague in pediatric surgery was Michel Carcassone of the University of Aix-Marseille, and the Chief of Pediatric Surgery at the Hopital Timon in Marseille. We had known each other as surgical colleagues for many years, and Dr. Carcassone had patterned his surgical service in Marseille after the Philadelphia Children's Hospital, where I held sway. This was an unusual thing to happen in France where most of the pediatric surgical role models were British in origin. I had for nine consecutive years been a visiting professor at Aix-Marseille, and had taken part in clinical activities at the Hopital Timon. It was an invitation from Dr. Carcassone to me personally, that got me to Marseille to present AIDS to what he thought was a very poorly understanding medical and lay community. As a matter of fact, I was somewhat shocked when I realized how surprised the audience was at some of the things I said about AIDS. The next morning, I met a health worker that I had some acquaintance with, in the hospital, and she said: "I had no idea that AIDS was a sexually transmitted disease."

I almost never used slides or illustrative material, in the visual sense in any of the speeches I gave as Surgeon General. This was an outstanding exception because AIDS is a difficult subject in the first place, and is much more difficult to teach than one would imagine in crossing a language barrier, from English to French. Therefore, I not only illustrated this lecture with slides in French, but with the cooperation of HBO, I was able to present a video I had prepared for HBO: "Everything You Wanted to Know About AIDS, but Were Afraid to Ask," with the French language dubbed-in.

The lecture is essentially a series of talking points for me to use with the visual aids. The French slides are available. There are no index words for this lecture.